41

bio-chemical reaction, bio-electro-chemical reaction, reaction speed, reaction energy, speed of reaction, oxygen concentration, oxygen consumption rate, ionic strength, catalytic behavior, chemical additives to trigger enhanced signal response, bio-chemical additives to trigger enhanced signal 5 response, biological additives to trigger enhanced signal response, chemicals to enhance detection sensitivity, biochemicals to enhance detection sensitivity, biological additives to enhance detection sensitivity, or bonding strength; density, shape, volume, or surface area; surface shape, surface 10 area, surface charge, surface biological property, surface chemical property, pH, electrolyte, ionic strength, resistivity, cell concentration, or biological, electrical, physical or chemical property of solution; frequency, speed of acoustic waves, acoustic frequency and intensity spectrum distribu- 15 tion, acoustic intensity, acoustical absorption, or acoustical resonance; internal pressure, hardness, flow rate, viscosity, fluid mechanical properties, shear strength, elongation strength, fracture stress, adhesion, mechanical resonance frequency, elasticity, plasticity, or compressibility.

- 33. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the shapes and sizes of different sections of the channel can be the same or different.
- **34**. The apparatus of claim **30**, wherein the width of the channel ranges from about 1 mm to about 1 mm.
- **35**. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the interior wall of the channel defines a circular, oval, polygon, or rectangular space.
- **36**. The apparatus of claim **35**, wherein the channel is a circular carbon nano-tube.
- 37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the carbon nanotube has a diameter from about 0.5 nm to about 1 micron and a length from about 5.0 nm to about 10 mm.
- **38**. The apparatus of claim **30**, wherein the interior wall of the channel has at least one concave groove that may be in the 35 same section as a probing or detecting micro-device.
- **39**. The apparatus of claim **38**, wherein the concave groove is a depth of from about 10 nm to about 1 mm.
- 40. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein a disturbing fluid is injected into the channel, either before or after the biological

42

subject passes a probing micro-device, to aid the traveling or separation of the biological subject inside the channel.

- **41**. The apparatus of claim **40**, wherein the distribution fluid is injected into the channel through a distribution fluid channel connected to an opening in the channel wall.
- **42**. The apparatus of claim **30**, wherein the apparatus is for detecting circulating tumor cells in two or more biological subjects, and the channel comprises a device located therein for separating or dividing the biological subjects based on different levels of a same property of the biological subjects.
- **43**. The apparatus of claim **42**, wherein the separating or dividing device is a slit and separates or divides biological subjects based on their surface charges.
- **44**. The apparatus of claim **30**, further comprising a filtering device configured for removing irrelevant objects from the biological subject for detection.
- **45**. The apparatus of claim **4**, further comprising a channel, a pre-processing unit, a re-charging unit, a detection unit, a data storage unit, a data analysis unit, a central control unit, a biological sample recirculation unit, a waste disposal unit, a global positioning system, a motion device, a signal transmitter, a signal receiver, a sensor, a logic processing unit, an application specific chip, a micro-electro-mechanical device, a multifunctional device, or a micro-instrument to perform surgery, drug delivery, cleaning, or medical function.
- **46**. The apparatus of claim **45**, wherein the apparatus is integrated on a single device or a board.
- **47**. The apparatus of claim **45**, wherein the pre-processing unit comprises a filtration unit, a nutrient and respiring gas recharging unit, a constant pressure delivery unit, or a sample disturbing unit.
- **48**. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the tumor cells are from prostate cancer, lung cancer, colon cancer, breast cancer, brain cancer, cervical cancer, Hodgkin's lymphoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, kidney cancer, leukemia, liver cancer, ovarian cancer, skin cancer, testicular cancer, thyroid cancer, pancreatic cancer, endometrial cancer, esophageal cancer, or uterine cancer.

* * * * *